

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 SAM-01

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1151

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USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PINS, IT

SUBJECT: POLITICAL VIOLENCE CONTINUES

SUMMARY: THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE JUNE 15 ELECTIONS HAD BEEN CHARACTERIZED BY CONTINUING POLITICAL VIOLENCE. COMING FROM BOTH FAR LEFT AND FAR RIGHT, THIS VIOLENCE IN RECENT DAYS HAS BEEN DOMINATED BY LEFT-WING ULTRAS WHO MAY BE SHIFTING THEIR AIM AWAY FROM THE NEO-FASCIST MSI TOWARD THE CENTER PARTIES. END SUMMARY.

1. HEADLINES MAY 16 IN ALL PAPERS (NO PAPERS MAY 15) REPORTED POLITICAL VIOLENCE DURING LAST TWO DAYS BY EXTREMISTS CLAIMING AFFILIATION WITH THE FAR LEFT "RED BRIGADES" AND THE "ARMED PROLETARIAN NUCLEI (ROME 6939). MOST SERIOUS INCIDENT OCCURRED MAY 15 IN MILAN WHERE ARMED TERRORISTS FROM THE RED BRIGADES BROKE INTO OFFICE OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY GROUP LEADER IN CITY COUNCIL, HELD MOCK TRIAL AND CAREFULLY SHOT HIM THROUGH THE LEG.

2. CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY SECTIONS IN VENICE AND A TOWN NEAR MILAN WERE ENTERED BY ARMED GROUPS CLAIMING TO BE RED BRIGADE MILITANTS AND "REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PEOPLE." IN

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VENICE, INTRUDERS LIMITED THEMSELVES TO PAINTING RED BRIGADE

SLOGANS ON THE WALL. THOSE ASSAULTING DC SECTION IN TOWN NEAR MILAN DID MINOR DAMAGE AND CONFISCATED LISTS OF DC MEMBERS.

3. SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC ALDERMAN AND LANDOWNER AT GAGGIANO (NEAR MILAN), WAS KIDNAPPED MAY 14. FAMILY SUBSEQUENTLY RECEIVED CALL SAYING ALDERMAN TAKEN BY REPRESENTATIVES OF RED BRIGADES AND NAP AND THAT HE BEING HELD IN "PEOPLE'S PRISON." PAPERS REPORT POLICE ARE INVESTIGATING BOTH POLITICAL AND ORDINARY CRIMINAL MOTIVES FOR ABDUCTION.

4. COMMENT: FAR-LEFT EXTREMISTS HAVE STRUCK DC AND PSDI TARGETS BEFORE, AS THEY DID IN WAKE OF APRIL 16 SHOOTING OF LEFTIST STUDENT IN MILAN (ROME 5799). HOWEVER, THEY HAVE TYPICALLY CONCENTRATED ON FAR-RIGHT MSI PARTY AND RIGHT-WING EXTRA-PARLIAMENTARY GROUPS. IT IS TOO EARLY TO TELL WHETHER THEY HAVE SHIFTED THEIR AIM TOWARD THE CENTER PARTIES, OR WHY THEY WOULD CHOOSE TO DO SO DURING AN ELECTION CAMPAIGN WHERE "LAW AND ORDER" IS A PRIME ISSUE. THE LEFT-WING PRESS HAS OPENLY EXPRESSED THE SUSPICION THAT THE DC ITSELF MAY BE BEHIND THESE RECENT EPISODES AND AT LEAST ONE ARTICLE HAS IMPLIED THAT THE CIA MAY HAVE A FINGER IN THE PIE. ON THE FACE OF IT, ONE EXPLANATION COULD BE THAT THE TERRORIST LEFT SIMPLY DOES NOT ACCEPT PCI GRADUALISM AND BELIEVES THAT ANY AUTHORITARIAN REACTION THEIR VIOLENCE MAY PROVOKE WILL PLAY INTO THEIR HANDS BY RADICALIZING THE "PROLETARIAT." FOR THE MOMENT, THEIR VIOLENCE SHOULD TEND TO HELP ELECTORALLY THE PARTIES IT IS AIMED AGAINST. VOLPE

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